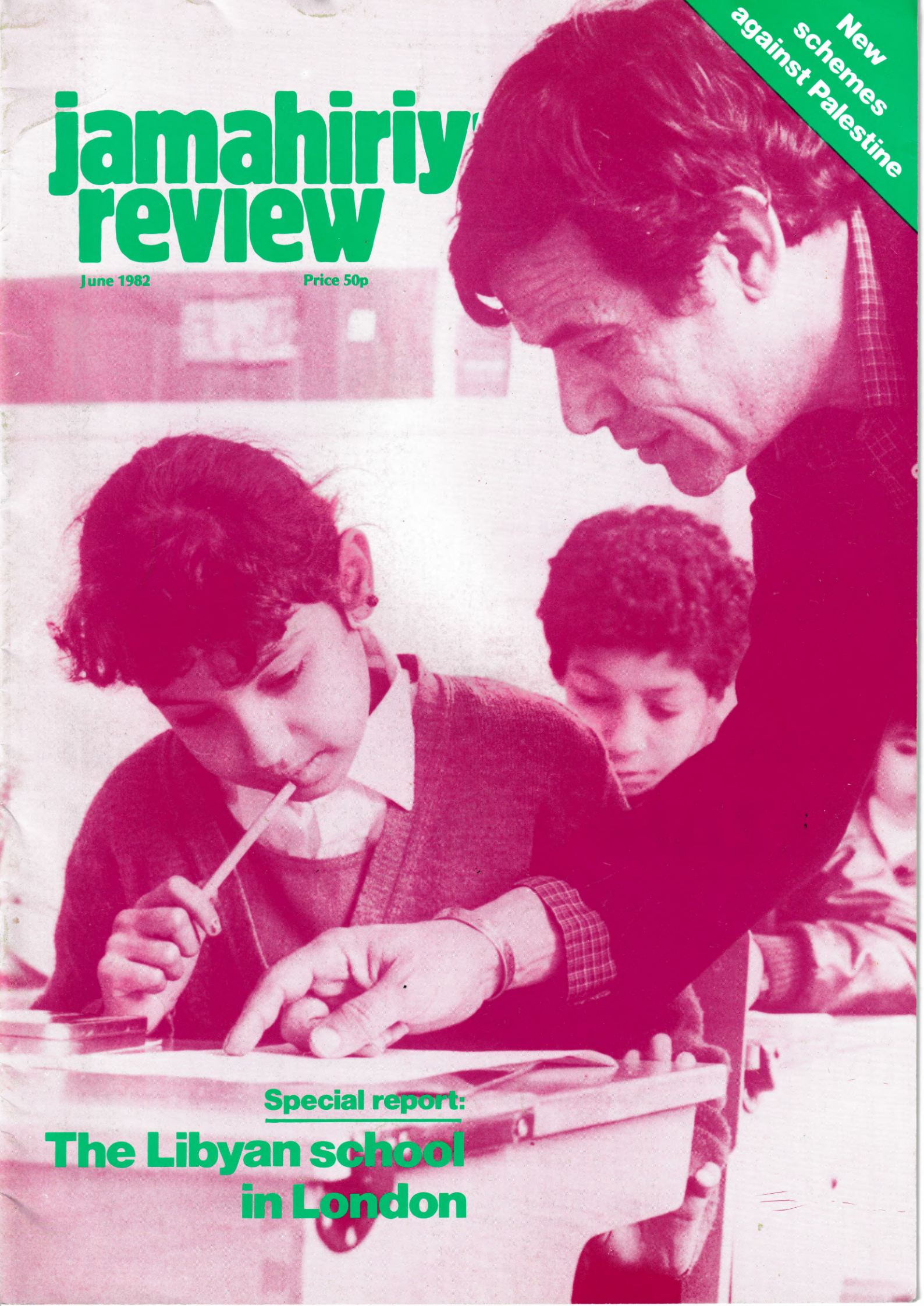


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jamahiriya review

No 25

June 1982

COVER STORY: In the centre of Chelsea the new Libyan school has opened its doors to students. Phil Kelly visited the premises and talked with the headmaster, who explained the importance of the school for the children of Arabs living in London. The report appears on pages 12 and 13.

AFRICA: Despite continuing efforts by Washington to persuade African states to boycott the Organisation of African Unity summit in Libya, the recent African Economic Ministers' meeting in Tripoli suggests that the August summit will be a success. Over 40 countries attended the April meeting. See report on page 9.

REVOLUTION IN ACTION: Crucial to Libya's ambitious development programme are the advances the Jamahiriya has made in the field of higher education. On page 14, Dr Alan George examines Libya's progress in education and the special emphasis placed on technical skills.

PALESTINE: As resistance to Zionist repression continues in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Saudi Arabia and Israel have both put forward 'plans' for the resolution of the Palestine question. But as Phil Kelly reports on pages 10 and 11, each serves merely to maintain US influence in the area, and to deny the Palestinian Arabs their national rights.

ECONOMY: Against the background of evidence suggesting that the Saudi and American engineered oil glut may soon be over, on page 17, we examine the prospects for the oil producers in the coming months.

NEWS REVIEW: Panorama News Review on pages 5 to 8 provides a monthly report on news and events in the Libyan Jamahiriya, the Arab homeland and the Third World. Reports this month include the Time magazine opinion poll amongst West Bank Palestinians, which showed that Muammer Qadhafi is the most popular Arab leader.

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COMMENT

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Appeasement must not be on the agenda

AS CERTAIN Arab regimes began to call for relations to be restored with Egypt, Zaire has announced that diplomatic relations with Israel will be restored. Each of these moves must satisfy Washington, and the American efforts to secure African and Arab support for the Camp David accords and acceptance of the Zionist state in Palestine.

It is important, therefore, to explain why each of these developments should be opposed.

Firstly, the initiative now being launched to bring Egypt back into the forums of the Arab states: When President Sadat went to occupied Jerusalem and subsequently to Camp David, the new Egyptian policy dealt a serious blow to the Arab nation and the Palestinians. It was, without doubt, a victory for Israel.

The Camp David accords were more than a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, militarily the strongest Arab state. The accords were in two parts: the first dealt with Israeli withdrawal from Egyptian territory in Sinai, occupied in the 1967 June War; the second was devoted to the future of the West Bank and Gaza, two areas of Palestine also occupied in 1967.

Although Egypt regained her territory as a result of the Camp David accords, the real benefits went to the Zionists. President Sadat gave the Israelis at the Camp David negotiating table the very thing which they had been unable to secure in three decades of aggression — legitimacy for their occupation of Palestine in 1948.

But there were other important benefits for the Zionists. They left Camp David with a military superiority far greater than at any time in the past. By signing a peace treaty with Israel, Egypt made it possible for the Zionists to concentrate their military strength on the West Bank and along the borders with Lebanon and Syria.

The consequences have been clearly evident: the Palestinians on the West Bank have faced increased brutality at the hands of the Zionist occupation forces. And so too have the Palestinian refugees in the Lebanon. Safe in the knowledge that Arab capacity to respond on a military level has been dramatically reduced by the removal of Egypt from the military equation, Israel is now able to concentrate on a wholly military approach to the Palestine question.

Nothing the Zionists have done since Camp David has brought a change in Cairo's policy: hundreds have died in Israeli bombing raids on the Lebanon — four hundred alone died in a single raid on Beirut last summer; Iraq's nuclear reactor in Baghdad was reduced to rubble in another of Beigin's characteristic attacks. And in recent weeks scores of young unarmed Palestinians have been killed or injured as Zionist troops storm around the West Bank in a futile effort to impose Zionist military occupation on the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, Israel has made it quite clear that withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza is not in the Zionist programme; more and more Zionist settlements have been created, Arab Jerusalem declared Israel's 'eternal capital', and Syrian territory on the Golan has been annexed.

Indeed, all that is happening on the West Bank and Gaza Strip today — the suffering and the bloodshed — was pre-

dictable from the very moment that the Camp David accords were signed and published.

The question now is what change has occurred which makes the Camp David accords, and Egyptian policy towards Israel, more acceptable now than when the Arab states broke diplomatic ties with Cairo? President Sadat has gone, but his policies on the Palestine issue remain part of the new Egyptian government's programme. To restore diplomatic ties with Cairo implies acceptance of Egypt's surrender to Israel, and the Camp David accords.

Unfortunately, such acceptance of Israel is also implicit in the Saudi peace plan which is now being proposed once again, despite clear opposition from other Arab states when it emerged at the last Rabat Arab summit. It is a strange time for anyone, let alone an Arab government, to speak about peace with the Zionists when the Israeli government is busy murdering Palestinians on the West Bank and mobilising for an invasion of the Lebanon.

Africa and the Palestinians

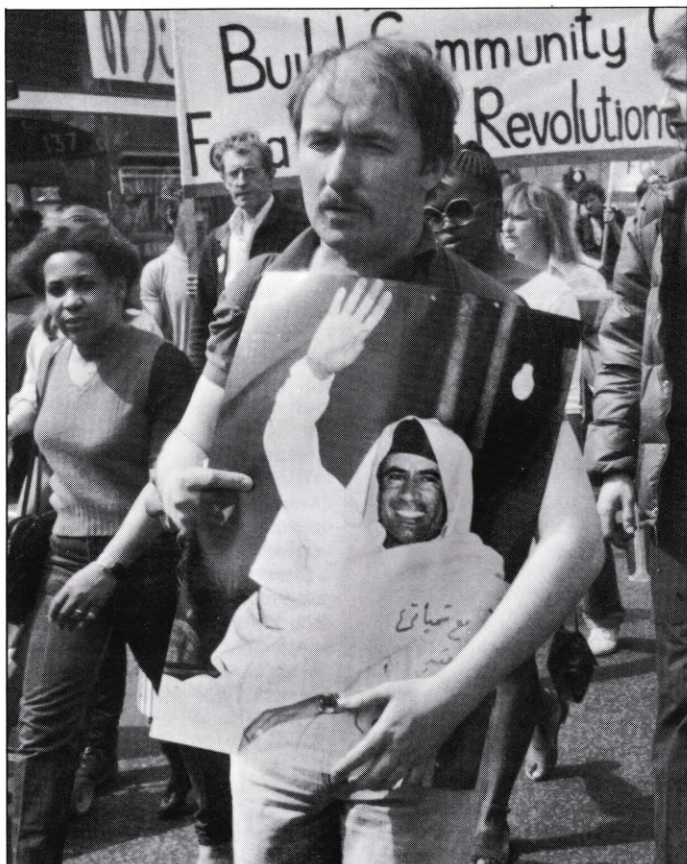
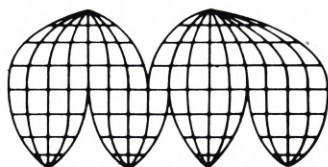
Equally, it is difficult to accept Zaire's argument, in defending her decision to restore diplomatic ties with Israel, that it is a logical act now that Israel has withdrawn from Sinai; today Israeli (and American) influence in Egypt is stronger than it was at the time when Zaire broke relations with Israel.

That might not be a very strong argument to put to President Mobutu; he has long chosen to align his regime with Washington, and any other foreign government which will help keep him in power. But when the rest of independent Africa examines its stand on the Palestine question, can they afford to ignore Israel's policies in Africa?

Most important is the Zionist alliance with apartheid South Africa, in a programme of co-operation which includes the manufacture of nuclear weapons, and the supply of arms and expertise to South Africa in support of the apartheid regime's oppressive policies against the Black Africans of southern Africa. Israeli advisers and arms were used in Zimbabwe in a futile effort to maintain the Smith regime in power, and SWAPO has reported similar Israeli involvement in Namibia.

Moreover, under the secret clauses of the strategic co-operation agreement between Israel and the United States, the Zionists are expected to fulfil a proxy role for Washington. American funds and military aid will be channelled through Israel to support regimes where direct aid from Washington would arouse African hostility, or in the case of regimes with a bad record on human rights, where US aid would face opposition from Congress in Washington. Hence, Israel's role is to ensure a cover for American interference in African affairs, and to ensure continuing support for regimes which the American Congress would not approve on the basis of human rights.

But even if Israel were not in alliance with the South African regime, nor a front for American efforts to maintain economic and political control over African affairs, Zaire's move is a sickening one. The Palestinian people today are struggling for their independence and right to self-determination, yet Zaire has chosen to align herself with a brutal, colonial settler-regime.



A portrait of Muammar Qadhafi is carried on a recent Palestine solidarity march in London.

Qadhafi 'most popular Arab leader'

A RECENT opinion poll amongst Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank shows that Muammar Qadhafi is the most widely respected of non-Palestinian Arab leaders. 40 per cent of those polled said that they admired Qadhafi most. Amongst the Arab countries, Syria was the most popular (33 per cent of respondents), with the Jamahiriya coming a close second (29 per cent).

The poll, commissioned by *Time* magazine and published on 24th May, shows a notable lack of support for America's allies in the region. Only 11 per cent of interviewees named Jordan's King Hussein as the leader they most admired. President Mubarak of Egypt was mentioned by only one per cent. Bottom of the list was Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Fahd, cited by a trifling 0.9 per cent of those polled.

The poll shows overwhelming

support amongst Palestinians for an independent state of their own in their country. 98 per cent wanted a state, and 59 per cent wanted it to embrace the whole of Israeli-occupied Palestine.

There was also overwhelming support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, with 86 per cent of respondents wanting a state run solely by the PLO.

The *Time* magazine poll shows conclusively the hostility of Palestinians towards the collaborators, headed by the former Jofdanian cabinet minister Mustapha Dudin, that Israel is trying to build up into an 'alternative' local leadership. Dudin was cited as the most popular local leader by a minuscule 0.2 per cent of respondents. By far the most popular local leader, mentioned by 68 per cent of those polled, was the Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka, who was recently dismissed by the occupation authorities.

The poll also revealed the wide extent of the opposition to the US-sponsored Camp David accords. 86 per cent of interviewees described Camp David as a 'hindrance'.

Israel 'has 200 A-Bombs'

A RECENTLY published book on the Zionist state's attack last year on Iraq's nuclear reactor reveals that Israel has stockpiled 200 nuclear warheads, and is collaborating closely with South Africa in developing a cruise missile with a 1,500 mile range, a neutron bomb, and various nuclear weapons delivery systems.

Two Minutes Over Baghdad was written by three Israelis, all of them with excellent connections in the Zionist military and government. One of the authors, Amos Perlmutter, worked for four years at Israel's top secret nuclear establishment at Dimona, in the Negev desert, where the Zionist state builds its atom bombs.

US diplomat backs Libya's Sahara unity call

THE PROPOSAL aired last year by Libyan Revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi for a merger between the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and Mauritania has been supported by an American diplomat. Charles Dunbar, deputy chief of the US mission in Kabul, Afghanistan, writing in the Winter 1981-82 issue of *SAIS Review*, published by the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, related the suggestion of such a merger to the ethnic identity of the people of Mauritania and the Western Sahara.

Mr Dunbar points out that the two peoples are both Moorish, members of a part of the Arab nation which has always lived in the north western corner of Africa, since long before the Spanish colonised what is now the Western Sahara, and the French seized Mauritania. Before colonial times, the area was known as the *Bilad Sinqit*.

The Libyan leader's suggestion of unity was based on this ethnic identity. The Polisario Front, fighting to liberate the remaining area of the Western Sahara, have stressed that within the ethnic identity, there were political differences. Even before colonisation, the people of the Western Sahara did not owe allegiance to the amirs of what is now Mauri-

tania. In their fight for independence, Polisario have understandably chosen to stress this, to indicate that they have as much a right to independence within the old colonial boundaries as any other part of the Arab people. Muammar Qadhafi chose to go beyond this, and given the establishment of Sahrawi independence, to stress the unity of the two countries.

The *Review* stresses that Mr Dunbar's conclusions 'are not those of the US government'. The propagandists of the Reagan administration have sought to portray any suggestion by the Libyan leader that there should be greater unity between Arab states as part of a 'Libyan plot' for a 'Saharan empire'. They have now been severely embarrassed by evidence from one of their own diplomats of the serious and scientific basis for Muammar Qadhafi's ideas.

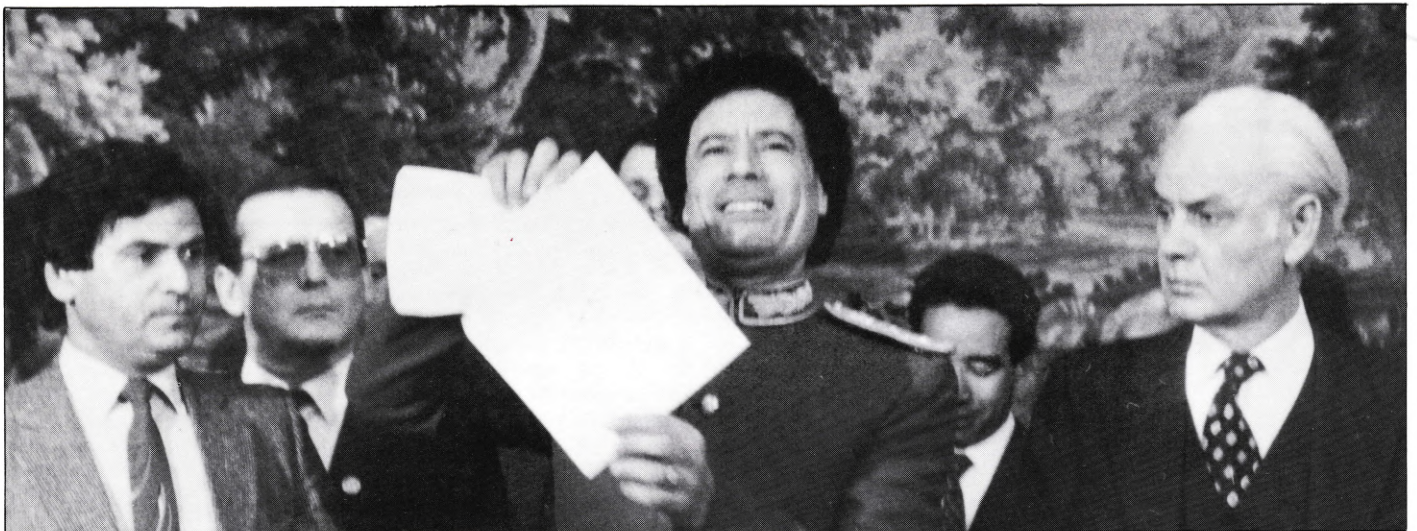
Qadhafi says 'economy is healthy'

'LIBYA'S ECONOMIC situation is healthy, and exporting oil is not a serious problem for us.' With these words, revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi has dismissed reports in the western media alleging that the world oil glut, and the recently-imposed US embargo of Libyan oil were causing severe difficulties in the Jamahiriya.

In a country-wide radio and television broadcast on 28th April, Colonel Qadhafi predicted that international demand for oil would pick up in the coming months. 'The Jamahiriya is rich in oil, and will use it as soon as there is a need for it,' he declared, adding: 'We cannot sell our oil for low prices in order to gain foreign currency. Instead, we have decided to store our oil in the ground, and not sell it at prices lower than \$30 per barrel.'

Disclosing that two new oil fields had recently been discovered in the Jamahiriya, Muammar Qadhafi declared: 'America has failed to besiege the Libyan Arab people, who are capable of resisting all US schemes.'

In March the United States imposed a boycott of Libyan oil, and tried to persuade American oil technicians working in the



In Vienna Muammar Qadhafi calls for closer co-operation between Europe and the Arab nation. See 'Kreisky' item below

▷ Jamahiriya to leave. The move came amid false allegations circulated by US intelligence agencies to the effect that the Jamahiriya had sent 'hit squads' to assassinate President Reagan.

On 17th April Libya's Basic People's Congresses began their first session of 1982, and Muammar Qadhafi took the opportunity to express his satisfaction at their deliberations. Under the Jamahiri system of direct democracy, the Basic People's Congresses are the local forums where all citizens debate Libyan and international policies. Colonel Qadhafi said that his observations of the session had strengthened his faith in the Libyan people's ability to administer themselves, without any traditional government imposed from above. 'These discussions have made me confident that the Libyan Arab people are capable of self-rule and self-determination,' he declared.

Kreisky: 'West should not spurn Libya'

IN MARCH, Austria became the first western country to host a visit by Muammar Qadhafi, and Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has since revealed his impressions of the Libyan leader, and stressed that other western states should follow Austria's lead. There was no evidence to support allegations that Libya finances international terrorism, he said.

Interviewed on 26th April by *Vorwärts*, the official weekly of West Germany's ruling Social Democratic Party, Kreisky said that it would be a mistake to ignore the clear indications that Libya was interested in improving ties with the West. He added that during his talks with Qadhafi, he

had found him to be a 'sincere' leader with serious policies.

The Austrian Chancellor has also strongly defended Qadhafi against allegations of involvement in 'international terrorism'. Such charges, which are repeated *ad nauseam*, and without any substantiation, often centre on alleged Libyan involvement with the Italian Red Brigades terrorists. But in an interview with the London monthly *The Middle East* in May, Chancellor Kreisky said that the Libyan leader had specifically stressed his firm opposition to terrorism, whether in Italy or elsewhere. 'Qadhafi firmly stated that he is not interested in any terrorist activity in Italy, and that he is doing all in his power to solve peacefully the problem of Italian terrorism,' said Kreisky.

The Chancellor added that Libya's close economic ties with Italy should be enough to dispel any suspicions on Libyan involvement with the Red Brigades. 'Everybody knows to what extent Libya is involved in Italy's economy. Like many other firms, Italy's greatest group, Fiat, is partly owned by the Libyans,' he noted.

The Chancellor concluded: 'One question that everybody should answer is whether there is any real evidence of Qadhafi's complicity in terrorism. To talk about it means little.'

Further evidence that Libya has not supported the Red Brigades came on 3rd May, during the trial in Rome of 63 suspected members of the group. Antonio Savastas, the principal prosecution witness, is a Red Brigades member who has turned state's evidence. Savastas, who led last December's terrorist kidnapping in Italy of the American General Dozier, declared in court that the Red Brigades had no contacts whatsoever with the Libyan Jamahiriya.

America 'not serious' on new economic order

THE INDUSTRIALISED countries, headed by the United States, are not serious about the creation of a new international economic order, and are actively working to undermine the political, economic and cultural independence of Third World countries. This was the blunt message of Abdesalam Jalloud, a close aid of revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi, to African Planning and Economy Ministers, meeting in Tripoli on 28th and 29th April.

'The advanced industrial countries have placed a range of obstacles in the path of those who want to create a just world economic order,' he declared, adding: 'Those countries want to keep the backward world forever backward, and to confine independence in Africa to raising a flag and having a president. They do not want independence to acquire its political, economic, cultural and social meaning.'

Major Jalloud continued: 'The advanced industrial countries are not serious about establishing a just world economic order, which will allow the advanced countries to continue their progress while also allowing the backward world to overcome its underdevelopment.'

He pointed to US policies in southern Africa and Palestine as hard evidence of Washington's hostility to Third World aspirations. 'This most feudal-minded and reactionary of all US administrations blatantly backs two racist regimes — in South Africa and Palestine. It tries to make each a special gendarme, having lost its gendarme force, the Shah of Iran,' he said.

'The American administration led by Reagan has daily chal-

lenged African sentiments ever since it came to power,' said Major Jalloud. 'It inaugurated its rule by strengthening co-operation with the racist South African regime and undermining international decisions concerning independence for Namibia. It is now waging an economic war against, and creating social and economic problems for, the Third World.'

US policies, he concluded, meant that the world was passing through 'the most dangerous period since the end of the Second World War'.

Peking envoy holds talks in Tripoli

A SPECIAL envoy from the People's Republic of China, Hua Yong, paid a short official visit to the Jamahiriya in May. He held talks with Staff Major Abdel Salem Jalloud, and with Abdul Ati al Obeidi, Secretary for Foreign Liaison. Bilateral relations between China and the Jamahiriya were the main topic of discussion. Mr Yong expressed his pleasure at Libya's achievements over the past thirteen years, and its firm stand against imperialism and Zionist expansionism. Closer relations between the two countries were in the interests of world peace and security. A strong Libya under the leadership of Colonel Muammar Qadhafi was in the interests of the Libyan people and of the Chinese people, the envoy said.

The meeting follows the decision in 1979 by the General People's Congress in Tripoli to break diplomatic ties with Peking because of China's support for the Sadat regime.

At the meeting in Tripoli in March of the International Forum against Imperialism, Zionism Racism and Reaction, Muammar

Qadhafi expressed regret that the People's Republic was not represented. It was well qualified to attend the forum, the Libyan leader said, because of its status as a major Third World country which played a deterrent role in safeguarding other people's independence, he said, adding: 'It would be wise to leave the door open for China to join this forum when it decides to break its ties once and for all with the imperialist forces that are opposed to the people at this forum.'

Washington and Rabat in agreement

AMERICAN PLANES will be able to use bases in Morocco for attacks on the other parts of the Arab homeland. This was the agreement reached between King Hassan II and the Reagan administration during the monarch's recent trip to Washington. The Americans have been pressing the Moroccan ruler to allow them to use his country for their military aircraft for some time. The United States provides some \$55 million in economic aid to Morocco, and last year lent the country \$30 million to buy US weaponry. A proposal to increase that amount to \$100 million was recently made by the State Department, but this was halved by the Congress.

In a desperate effort to conceal the extent of his dependence on the US, King Hassan claimed recently that he would not allow the American bases in his country to be used in any US action against an Arab country. 'There is no question that we are non-aligned,' said the King. If there were a conflict in the Gulf, or if western surrogate forces were to attack Libya, it is unlikely that Hassan or his ministers would even be consulted about the use which the Americans made of the bases handed over to them.

Call for greater involvement by women

IN CONTRAST to reactionary Arab countries, the Libyan Jamahiriya has consistently sought to involve its female citizens fully in all aspects of the country's social, economic and political life. Addressing girl students in Tripoli on 8th May, revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi reaffirmed this determination, and stressed that, contrary to often repeated claims, there was nothing in the Islamic faith that restricted the role of women.

Urging the students to enlist in the Jamahiriya's military colleges, which are open to all Libyan citizens, Qadhafi declared: 'The Zionist enemy has mobilised both men and women to confront the Arab nation.' The Arabs could not afford to have half their population passive at a time when they faced such serious challenges.

He called on Libyan women to shoulder their full responsibilities, pointing to the commitment of Christian nuns as an example to Arab women. 'The task before the Arab nation is the creation of a movement of revolutionary sisters to help counter Israel and the imperialist schemes aimed at undermining the independence of the Arab homeland,' he declared.

Socialists demand nuclear-free Mediterranean

A FIRM call for the transformation of the Mediterranean basin into a nuclear-free zone has come from Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou. In an interview with the Algerian daily *Al Moudjahid* on 10th May, Mr Papandreou reaffirmed his Pan-Hellenic Socialist Party's commitment to 'closer co-operation in the various fields [between Mediterranean countries], and in favour of a struggle for a Mediterranean without foreign bases and fleets, de-nuclearised and socialist'.

The interview appeared the day before Mr Papandreou's arrival

in Algiers for talks with President Chadli Benjedid, the first meeting between the two leaders.

'The transformation of the Mediterranean into a lake of peace is the collective task of the Mediterranean peoples and socialist movements,' Mr Papandreou declared, stressing that, as a zone between West and East and North and South, the region was of key importance.

The Greek Premier revealed that Athens is to strengthen its ties with the Polisario Front, which is waging a guerrilla war for the independence of the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara, now under Moroccan occupation. 'On the basis of the principle of solidarity with national liberation movements, the Greek Government is looking favourably at the question of a presence in Athens of the Polisario Front,' Mr Papandreou said.

Greece last December formally recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and upgraded the PLO Office in Athens to embassy status. Mr Papandreou reaffirmed to *Al Moudjahid* his Government's position, saying: 'The European Ten could play an important role in the recognition of these [Palestinian] rights. Greece, by its *avant garde* positions, sees itself naturally in the role of advocate of the just Palestinian and Arab rights within the community.'

Earlier, Algiers had been the venue for the Fourth Conference of the Mediterranean Basin Progressive Forces, an informal grouping of the region's socialist parties. The conference ended on 7th May with a strongly-worded appeal to Mediterranean peoples

to turn the region into 'a zone of security, peace and co-operation', and to break the stranglehold on international information of the western-based multinational news agencies. The Algiers conference called for 'a new international system for communications and information that will preserve the identity of all peoples'.

Iranian oil experts arrive

A FIRST group of Iranian oil industry experts has arrived in Tripoli to help the Jamahiriya overcome difficulties posed by Washington's economic boycott against Libya. Tehran radio announced on 8th May. The volunteers travelled to Libya with a delegation from the Jamahiriya's Heavy Industry Secretariat, which will return to interview a further 39 Iranian mechanical engineering experts, the radio added.

On 10th December last, Ronald Reagan banned US citizens from travelling to Libya, and called on those already there to leave. The move was in response to fraudulent allegations circulated by US intelligence agencies regarding Libyan 'hit squads' despatched to assassinate the US President. Washington's aim was to cripple the Jamahiriya's economy; many US citizens in Libya work in the crucial oil sector.

Iran at once expressed its willingness to assist the Jamahiriya in overcoming any resultant manpower shortfalls, and on 1st January a team of ten Iranian oil specialists arrived in Tripoli to assess Libya's requirements. Iran's Deputy Oil Minister, Mr Hossain Kheradmand, has said that Iran would send as many as 300 experts, if they were needed. Algeria, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have offered similar assistance.

Kenyan delegation prepares for OAU summit

A HIGH level Kenyan delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Robert Ouko, has been touring North Africa in advance of the August summit in Tripoli of the Organisation of African Unity. The delegation arrived in the Jamahiriya on 17th May, carrying a letter for Muammer Qadhafi from Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, current Chairman of the OAU, who will hand over to the Libyan leader in August.▷



Libyan women are urged by Muammer Qadhafi to free themselves from the restrictions imposed by traditionalists — see report left.



As American troops increase their presence in the Arab homeland, progressive states prepare their response. See 'Red Sea Alliance' report.

▷ On 18th May the Kenyan team held talks with Staff Major Abdesalam Jalloud, a close aide of the Libyan leader, and one of the Free Unionist Officers who toppled the Idris monarchy on 1st September 1969. The talks centred on the coming summit, and on the challenges facing the African peoples.

The Kenyan delegation arrived in Tripoli from Algiers, where they held wide-ranging talks with President Chadli Benjedid.

Red Sea alliance warns of US schemes

A WARNING that the United States and its local allies were stepping up their efforts to undermine independence and security in the region has come from a meeting in Aden of the Foreign Ministers of the Red Sea Alliance.

The Alliance, comprising the Libyan Jamahiriya, Ethiopia and Democratic Yemen, was formed last year to counter the growing penetration of the Red Sea region by the United States, and the threat posed by the US' Rapid Deployment Force.

Two days of wide-ranging talks ended on 9th May with a communiqué warning that Washington, in association with Israel and western orientated regimes in the area, had 'stepped up its attacks and conspiracies against the progressive countries and forces, as well as national liberation movements, using economic pressure and provocative military manoeuvres'.

Washington's objective, the statement continued, was 'to undermine security and stability, and to perpetuate its military and political domination over the area'.

To counter the growing threat, the Red Sea Alliance called for greater co-ordination between 'nationalist and progressive

regimes and national liberation movements in the area, as well as with the allied socialist community'.

Delegations at the Aden meeting were headed by Abdel Ati al Ubeidi, Secretary of the People's Committee of the Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Bureau, Dr Feleke Gedle Giorgis, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, and Salim Salih Muhammad, Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

On 8th May Mr Ubeidi arrived in Abu Dhabi, federal capital of the United Arab Emirates, for a short round of talks with senior UAE officials, and with a message from Muammer Qadhafi to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan an Nahyan. The Libyan official was met at the airport by UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah, and by Mr Muhammad Ali Marih, Secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood in the UAE.

The Jamahiriya is progressively phasing out its embassies, and replacing them with people's bureaux, administered by committees of ordinary Libyans, rather than by career diplomats. In Arab countries the new Libyan diplomatic missions are termed Arab Brotherhood Bureaux, in recognition of the essential unity of the Arab nation.

South Africa behind Seychelles coup plot

CONFIRMATION HAS come of official South African complicity in last year's attempted overthrow of the Seychelles Government by a mercenary group headed by Michael Hoare. The group launched their assault from South Africa, and after having been beaten off by Seychelles security forces, escaped to Durban by hijacking an Air India civilian airliner.

The trial is underway in Pietermaritzburg of 43 mercenaries accused of hijacking, and on 17th May Hoare said in court that the South African government and military authorities were 'fully aware' of the plot.

Hoare said: 'I remember telling them [his men] not to go running off to the International Intelligence Service because they knew all about it.' He denied having told the mercenaries that on their return to South Africa none of them would face 'dire consequences'. He added, however, 'I am sure I would have said that if the operation went wrong, we were not friendless, and our friends in high places would help us.'

Polisario accords with Havana

A TWO-year foreign affairs and information agreement has been signed between the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and Cuba. The agreement, signed in Havana on 6th May by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and visiting SADR Information Minister Muhammad Salem Ould Salek, provides for yearly meetings for consultations on international affairs, and for the exchange of information on the activities of the two Ministries at international forums.

Mr Muhammad Abdelaziz, Secretary-General of the Polisario Front and President of the SADR, also visited Cuba in May for high level talks.

The Polisario Front has been waging a successful guerrilla war for the independence of the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara. When Spanish rule ended in February 1976, Polisario proclaimed the SADR, but, in the face of heavy international criticism, the territory was occupied by Moroccan forces.

Ties with Ghana strengthened

THE LATEST sign of the growing links between the Libyan Jamahiriya and Ghana came on 4th May, when it was announced that Libya had agreed to supply Ghana with 60 per cent of its oil needs over the next six months. Accra radio said that the Jamahiriya will provide 360,000 tonnes of crude oil, worth £54 million, and that the west African country will not have to pay for the shipments until one year after delivery. Even then, there will be a six months' grace period.

The agreement was a key outcome of talks in Accra between Ghanaian officials, headed by Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, Chairman of the ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), and a delegation from the Jamahiriya that included Economy and Light Industry Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa, and Abdesalam Jalloud, a close aide of revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi.

On 5th May Accra radio quoted Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah, Ghanaian Chief of Staff and a PNDC member, as having expressed to the Libyan delegation his country's appreciation for the Jamahiriya's programme of oil and food aid.

During the Accra talks, the latest Libyan food aid consignment arrived in Ghana, comprising 47 tonnes of food, including flour and rice, which was destined for hospitals, orphanages and leprosaria.

Earlier, it was announced that a Ghanaian diplomatic mission will soon open in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, as part of a reorganisation of Ghana's network of representation overseas. On 1st April, Ghana's Foreign Secretary, Obed Asamoah, said that ten out of a total of 43 embassies in Africa would be closed as an economy measure, including those in Senegal, Egypt, Zaire, Zambia, Uganda and Mali. He disclosed that a diplomatic mission will also be opened in Cuba.

Relations between Libya and Ghana have been warm since the New Year's Eve 1981 coup in Accra, when the corrupt regime of President Hilla Limann was toppled by Flight Lieutenant Rawlings. Diplomatic links, severed during Limann's rule, were restored early this year.

In another move underlining the Jamahiriya's solidarity with its fellow African states, Libyan Economy and Light Industry Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa on 20th April signed a co-operation agreement in Tripoli with visiting Mozambican Agriculture Minister Sergio Vieira.

THE SUMMIT conference of the Organisation of African Unity will take place in Tripoli in the first week of August. The United States and Israel are making strenuous efforts to persuade OAU member countries not to attend. But as *Phil Kelly* reports, the African view of Libya's role is rather different.

AT THE end of April, Planning and Economy Ministers from more than 40 of the 51 OAU member states attended the eighth conference of African planning ministers in Tripoli. Also present were officials of United Nations specialist agencies concerned with economic planning and development, and of the OAU, from Secretary General Edem Kojo downwards.

Significant participants in the Tripoli meeting were the Planning Ministers of Nigeria and Tunisia. Both countries have had their disagreements with the policies of the Libyan Jamahiriya in the past. Since Muammer Qadhafi's visit to Tunisia earlier this year, there has been a considerable improvement in relations. But Tunis is still subject to open US pressure to oppose Libya, and to join in a US-sponsored military pact in North Africa. Nigeria has suffered because of the world oil glut arranged by the United States and its Arab surrogate regimes, but still has many differences with Libya over economic and political matters.

Nevertheless, both states were represented at the Planning conference. It seems that the US Administration hopes to torpedo the August summit by persuading one third of OAU member states not to attend, thus depriving the meeting of the quorum necessary under OAU rules. This is now unlikely to occur, especially as states such as Nigeria and Tunisia feel quite able to attend Tripoli-based international gatherings.

Opening the Conference, the Jamahiriya's Planning Secretary, Fawzi Shakshuki, said that Libya would continue to offer support for Africans to take hold of their own resources. Despite its tremendous wealth, he said, the continent was the poorest in the world because its resources were being exploited to create progress elsewhere. 'Africa is the victim of an unjust world economic order that is retarding the continent's growth and robbing it of its resources in an attempt to keep it in a constant state of reliance on others,' he declared.

During the debates at the Conference, Secretary Shakshuki described the present struggle for Africa as 'one in which the West seeks to make the poor poorer and the rich even wealthier'. International

Economics meeting points to Libya's central role



Poverty: Evidence that economic liberation has been denied

monopolies were draining Africa's resources and lowering prices of basic commodities to maintain Africa's economic dependence on the West, the Libyan official said.

This analysis of the roots of Africa's problems is shared by the Jamahiriya and most other African states, moderate or radical. It is not accepted by western governments, which blame the problems caused by the west in Africa on the Africans themselves.

The Executive Secretary of the UN's

African Economic Committee, Dr Adibayou Adidji, underlined the Libyan Secretary's analysis. 'The only alternative open to Africa is self reliance on indigenous resources, the establishment of manufacturing industries, the development of African expertise and the expansion of local and regional markets,' he told the meeting.

The Conference was sharply critical of a World Bank report on economic development in sub-Saharan Africa. A committee of experts recommended that African countries should reject the report, which it said was intended to continue African economic dependence on the West. The experts suggested instead that Africa should be self-reliant. In line with a call from the Libyan delegation at the Conference, the report recommended that unification of markets and regulation of prices of basic commodities should be the African strategy.

The economic question — between planning as advocated by the Jamahiriya and the free-for-all espoused by the west and its institutions such as the World Bank — underlines American opposition to Libya's role in Africa. At a political level, African countries are closer to the Libyan than to the American view of economic development. Because of this, US efforts to isolate Libya in Africa will almost certainly be fruitless.

Obote rejects Zionist claims

THE ZIONIST state of Israel has been lending a hand in the campaign against Libya in Africa. Israeli propagandists have deliberately misrepresented the position of several African governments, including that of Milton Obote in Uganda.

One of Israel's leading propagandists in Britain is Colin Legum, former assistant editor of the London Sunday Observer. On 9th April, Legum contributed an article to the US daily Christian Science Monitor about a 'recent visit to Uganda'. In his judgement, the most important issue, with which he opened his article, was Libyan 'involvement' in Uganda. 'Uganda military authorities seem convinced that Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi is supplying arms to opponents of President Milton Obote,' wrote Legum. No sources were cited for this 'conviction'.

In the space of several hundred words, Legum blamed all the serious economic problems of Uganda on Libyan involvement. He concluded that as a result, 'President Obote is among the African leaders who have announ-

ced they will stay away from next year's (sic) summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity in Tripoli.' This is simply a lie.

On 26th April, President Obote, in a long message to Colonel Qadhafi, confirmed that Uganda would attend the conference of the OAU in Tripoli in August. In a clear reference to the activities of Legum and others, denounced 'prejudiced propaganda and the campaigns and clamour raised by imperialism, Zionism and reaction, which sought to cast doubts on the holding of the forthcoming African summit conference in Libya.' In this respect, the message continued, the campaigns 'fell in line with the American administration's objective of preventing the convocation of the conference in the Jamahiriya.' These campaigns were directed at breaking up the unity of Africa, said President Obote. Libya had played a firm role in bolstering this unity, his message said, and Libya's role in evicting the Zionists from their diplomatic footholds in Africa had 'served the cause of freedom of the African people'.

Resistance continues in occupied Palestine



Palestinian youths are lined up in a Nablus street before being interrogated by Zionist occupation troops on the West Bank

BRUTAL AND trigger happy: that was the description of the recent actions of Zionist occupation forces in the West Bank and Gaza districts of Palestine. The epithets came not from Palestinians but from six reserve officers in the Zionist army itself. Demonstrations against the Zionist occupation have been continuing almost daily since the beginning of March, and according to the latest figures announced by the Palestinians, twenty-four innocent people had lost their lives at Zionist hands in March, April, and the first week of May. In addition, at least twice that number were killed by Israeli air attacks on Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Among the worst incidents perpetrated by the Israelis was the shooting of a seventeen year old girl school student, Ahassan Abu-Daraz, in a classroom of her school in the Khan Yunis Refugee camp in occupied Gaza, on 4th May. The murder occurred after Zionist troops forced their way into the school, whose pupils have consistently expressed their support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The pretext was that stones had been thrown from the school at an occupation forces' patrol. Seven other girls were wounded when the patrol rampaged through the school.

Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka said when the current wave of repression began that Israeli strategy 'is so to frustrate the Palestinians that many of them leave. Then when the Palestinian people is less

MORE PALESTINIANS inside the occupied territories have died at Zionist hands in the past two months than at any time since Israel's 1967 aggression. Phil Kelly looks at Palestinian resistance to occupation and the latest western plans to undermine Palestinian resistance and Arab resolve.

dense, Israel will be able to annex the territory with a minimum of opposition,' he told the *Christian Science Monitor* on 11th March. In Gaza, two incidents have served to confirm this view. At the end of March, a Zionist army officer tried to rape a Palestinian girl, aged 15. He had offered to escort her home after she had been released from arrest.

The conviction that current Israeli military activities are part of a plan intended to panic the Palestinians into flight was further strengthened by the death of an eleven-year old boy and the wounding of an eleven year-old in an explosion at a Gaza refugee camp.

Palestinian sources said that the incident occurred as the two were playing with an

object which they had found. As the area itself had not been the scene of clashes between Palestinians and the occupiers, there is considerable speculation that the device which exploded had been deliberately left by the Zionists to cause injury to the innocent, particularly children.

Two facts point to the conclusion that the current clashes are part of a Zionist plan to expel a large proportion of the Palestinians from the 1967-occupied territories. The first is that historically, terror against innocent civilians has been a trusted Zionist tactic. The infamous massacre of Deir Yassin in April 1948, when 253 people were slaughtered by the Irgun, the terror group headed by current Zionist premier Menachem Beigin, was part of a campaign to force Palestinians to flee. This 1948 atrocity was verbally condemned by Labour Zionists, as anxious in 1948 as they are now to maintain a façade of respectability in the West. But no one ever stood trial or was arrested for the massacre, although the Zionists were well aware of the identity of the murderers.

In just the same way, the Israeli Labour Party today has verbally criticised the actions of the Israeli army in the 1948 occupied territories, but it backs the drive to expel the Palestinians. Its concrete suggestions are limited to the idea that Palestinian demonstrators should be shot at with plastic bullets. As Northern Ireland has shown, these are as capable of killing as the live ammunition currently favoured by the Zionists.

The second is the confirmation by the Zionists that the killing of demonstrators is an intended part of military action in the 1967-occupied territories. 'General Rafael Eitan, Israeli Army Chief of Staff, denied yesterday that there had been any change of policy towards demonstrators in the occupied territories. Every shooting by soldiers had been fully investigated and in no case had army regulations been infringed he told the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee,' the *Financial Times* reported on 6th May.

The Palestinian population has learnt the lesson of 1948, and it seems unlikely that there will be a mass exodus. The actions of the occupiers are serving to reinforce nationalist sentiment. The problem for Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza is however, that any act of protest may be seized on by the Israelis to tighten their grip on the area.

Israel 'not peace-loving', says UN

THE GENERAL Assembly of the United Nations has voted by 86 votes to 20 for a resolution declaring that Israel was 'not a peace-loving member state' and requesting sanctions against it. There were 34 abstentions in the voting. States supporting the resolution included all Arab countries with the exception of Egypt, most African

countries, and the socialist bloc. Only one western European country, Greece, supported the move.

The vote, at the end of April, was a direct result of the most recent Israeli raids into Lebanon and the murder of dozens of unarmed Palestinian civilians in the 1967-occupied territories by Zionist troops and police. Cuba, Malta

and Senegal have submitted a further call to the Assembly, on behalf of the whole non-aligned movement, to 'review Israel's UN status' during the forthcoming 37th Ordinary Session. This is seen as a prelude to the eventual exclusion of the racist state from the General Assembly, as South Africa was excluded several years ago.

TWO DIFFERENT plans for the future of occupied Palestine are being touted at the present time. One is the Israelis', the other is the Saudis'. Each of the parties is trying to prove to the United States that its plan offers the best way of containing the Palestinian and Arab revolution, and so of protecting western interests in the Arab homeland. The United States as always, wishes to preserve its influence and control over both its surrogates, and to minimise any contradictions between them.

The Zionist plan is straightforward. The West Bank, Gaza and the Golan will be more or less rapidly incorporated into the Zionist state. This will go forward as quickly as resistance from Palestinian and Syrian people under occupation will permit. 'There should be no distinction between settlement in Galilee [in the 1948-occupied territories] and the heart of Samaria [the 1967-occupied West Bank],' Zionist Premier Menachem Beigin told the Knesset on 4th May.

'When the time comes for the application of our national sovereignty over Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza district, we shall continue to maintain full autonomy for the Arab inhabitants as was agreed at Camp David,' he declared.

'This is not sovereignty and it is not self-determination,' he pointed out.

The imposition of the 'civilian' administration under Colonel Menachem Milson is a preparatory move for permanent annexation. The vicious Zionist response to Palestinian protest is part of this, but to complete it, the Zionists need to destroy the military strength of the PLO in Lebanon, which complements and is complemented by the support of Palestinians under occupation for the PLO.

The PLO has striven to avoid giving the Zionists a pretext for such an attack. For the second time in two months, Zionist jets struck refugee camps in Lebanon on 9th May. Because the Palestine resistance is alerted to the possibility of such raids, damage was minimal.

When the Zionists struck in April, there was no PLO retaliation. This time, rockets were fired into the northern part of the 1948-occupied territories. They were aimed away from Zionist settlements, falling in fields. The PLO thus demonstrated that it had the ability to reply to a Zionist attack, without needlessly shedding blood.

Nevertheless, the Israelis are clearly relying on the close links they have with the Reagan Administration to enable them to continue to 'create facts' of settlements in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan until these occupied regions become indistinguishable from the rest of occupied Palestine.

Saudi plan

But the United States is dragging its feet over the future of Palestine. While it is unable for domestic political reasons to place serious limits on Israeli expansionism, the Reagan Administration must



4,000 marchers leave London's Hyde Park on 15th May as part of British activities in solidarity with the Palestinian people, marking the anniversary of the 1948 Zionist occupation of Palestine.

International moves signal danger

nevertheless retain the confidence of its Arab neighbours. Hence the new interest expressed privately in Washington and more publicly in the countries of the European Community in the revived Saudi plan, the so-called Fahd plan.

First launched in August last year, the Fahd plan calls for the acceptance of the occupation of Palestine as one of its basic premises. It was rejected by the PLO and the other countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. When the Saudis tried to present it at the November Arab summit conference in Fez, the effect was to break up the meeting, and prevent any discussion of the Palestine problem, or indeed of any other of the problems pressing on the Arab nation.

This divisive effect is seen by radical Arabs as one of the major motives for the Saudis in raising the plan again at this stage. The other is that the Saudis can, in this way, preserve their links with the West from the otherwise obvious criticism that their regime is sustained in power with the active assistance of those who also back Israel. They argue that these links with the West help to modify western views, and to produce pressure on Israel.

There is no evidence at all that this is the case. But strenuous efforts are made by sections of European official opinion to lend credence to the Saudis' pleas. The current President of the EEC Council of Ministers Leo Tindemans of Belgium, made the customary fact finding tour of the Middle East in May, the fourth successive EEC President to do so. Reports from Brussels on his return spoke of 'various options open for a possible new diplomatic initiative'.

Cynical observers also noted that Washington was saying that any American move in the near future should be ruled out because of the 'proximity' of Congressional elections in November. The last EEC 'initiative', the Venice declaration,

was in June 1980 — timed nicely so that the US elections could once again be the European alibi for a failure to turn fair words into real action.

European motives

The Europeans, and particularly the British have their own interests in the Middle East, and they are therefore particularly prepared to act as the Reagan Administration's stalking horse in their attempt to preserve the credibility of the West's Arab protégés. The closeness of Anglo-American relations over foreign policy was set out by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, in a speech in May to the Foreign Office financed think tank, the Royal Institute for International Affairs. Kissinger told how 'The wartime habit of intimate informal collaboration thus became a permanent practice, obviously because it was valuable to both sides . . . Our postwar diplomatic history is littered with Anglo-American "arrangements" and "understandings", sometimes on crucial issues, never put into documents . . . Clearly, British membership of Europe has added a new dimension. But the solution is not to sacrifice the special intimacy of the Anglo-American connection, but to replicate it on a wider plane of America's relations with all its European allies.' (*The Guardian*, 11th May.)

The direction of the Saudi-European initiative has become clear with the Tindemans visit. The EEC President refused to see the Syrians or the PLO, confining his 'fact-finding' to the conservative Arab states, presumably to avoid finding many facts that won't fit with the European plan. A key element of this is the drawing of Egypt back into the arms of the conservative Arab states. Europe and the Reagan Administration hope that this can be done without rupturing the links between the Egyptian regime and the Zionists.

Education in London for Libyan children



A time for play and a time for work: Two views of activities at the Jamahiriya's school in London (Photos by Andrew Wiard, Report)

THE PEOPLE'S Committee for Education in Tripoli is charged with running Libya's schools and colleges on behalf of the Libyan people. Probably its most unusual establishment is in London's fashionable Chelsea. *Phil Kelly* visited the Jamahiriya School in London

A LIBYAN flag, solid green in colour, flies from a top-floor window of the Jamahiriya School in a quiet Chelsea street; it is rather smaller than the Union Jack which some neighbours, in a fit of Falklands-inspired patriotism, are flying from their porch.

In the yard, a handful of children kick a ball about, in a game which makes up for its lack of organisation by an ample supply of enthusiasm. Inside, the school is strangely quiet; a glance into one of the classrooms explains why. The desks have been pushed as far apart as possible, and the students are hunched silently over pieces of paper. There are no books, and teachers patrol the aisles. It is end-of-term exam time.

In his upstairs office, the headmaster, Suliman Ifkirin, explains that most of the 300 pupils are not in the school at present. Those not actually taking exams are at home undertaking private study. The exams are the *raison d'être* of the Libyan School.

'The idea of the school is to keep our children in the Libyan system of education, so that they can fit in with the ordinary schools when they go back to Libya with their parents,' he explains.

Parents of the pupils are in Britain for a variety of reasons. Some are staff at the People's Bureau, others studying at British universities and colleges, yet others here for medical treatment. Mr Ifkirin and his staff of 29 must cope with pupils who may attend the school for a few months only, or who may stay on for several years. Hence the importance of the exams, which are exactly the same as those being taken by pupils in the same classes in schools in the Jamahiriya.

In addition to the full Libyan syllabus, pupils also get extra lessons in English and in British ways. A Libyan school has been operating in London since 1976. When the People's Committee for Education decided to buy the former Inner London Education Authority school in Chelsea, classes were transferred from a building in Queen's Gate Terrace. The opportunity was also taken to extend the educational facilities of the school. In addition to primary and preparatory education, which covers pupils up to 13, the new school also takes secondary pupils, up to 18. As in many Libyan schools, boys and girls study the same subjects together.

Difficulty

Mr Ifkirin explains that prior to the opening and expansion of the school, Libyan parents had experienced great problems in finding an education which would enable their children to return to schools in Libya without falling behind in their studies. The opening of the new school meant that not only were all Libyans now able to send their children to the school, but that a few places were also available for children from other Arab countries living in London; there were pupils from Syria, Algeria and Sudan now studying there.

After purchasing the school from the Inner London Education Authority, the People's Committee for Education arranged for the building — which had been standing empty for five years — to be completely refurbished inside and out. The classrooms have modern desks and equipment, all supplied by British companies. The large halls on each floor, so typical of turn-of-the-century British schools, have been marked out for indoor games.

In the classrooms, there are wall newspapers in English and Arabic, covering such diverse topics as the aims of the Libyan Revolution and the geography of Africa. In most rooms, there are also portraits of Muammar Qadhafi. 'He is very popular among the pupils,' explained Mr Ifkirin. 'It is their feeling that they wish to have his picture in the classrooms.'

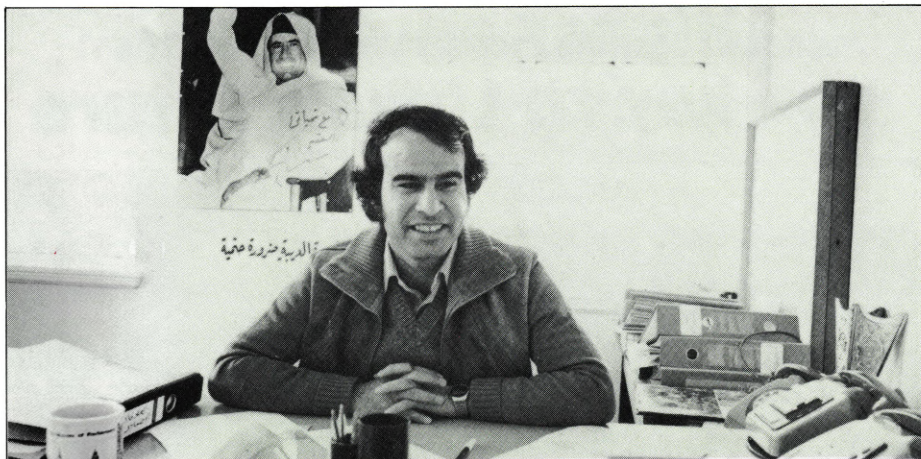
Community

The Jamahiriya School is anxious to become part of the local community. When it was first mooted that the former Kingsley School was to be sold to the Libyans there was some local opposition, motivated largely by lack of information about Libya and about the uses to which the school would be put. A meeting was held in a Chelsea hotel, which was open to all local residents. It was attended by staff of the school, representatives of the Libyan People's Bureau, local councillors and the police.

'It was made very clear at the meeting that the school would be used solely for education purposes. It would be registered with the appropriate authorities in Britain, and therefore subject to inspection at all times,' Mr Ifkirin said. This has now been done; the Jamahiriya School has been granted provisional registration by the Department of Education and Science.

'We have made it clear that we want to be of use also to the local community,' said Mr Ifkirin. 'We have offered the use of the school for such purposes as the teaching of Arabic in evening classes, and the local authority, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, have expressed an interest in using it for recreational and special classes during our vacations. We want to be part of the community here,' Mr Ifkirin added.

Some difficulties were experienced at first, as might be expected for any new enterprise. Books which ought to have been supplied from Tripoli were late in



Headmaster Suliman Ifkirin explains the function of the school

arriving, particularly for the secondary courses which started for the first time when the new building was opened. But these problems have been solved, and the school now seems as well equipped as any, particularly in the light of problems with text-books and equipment being experienced in state schools in Britain in the wake of government cuts in educational expenditure.

The school also provides a service of peripatetic teachers who visit Libyan families living outside London, where parents are studying at provincial universities and colleges. 'They are visited perhaps once a term,' Mr Ifkirin said. But this is possibly the most difficult of the school's tasks, because of the distances involved and the infrequency of contact.'

At the meeting called two years ago to discuss the school, local residents admitted that their fears that the school would be used for 'terrorist training', as had been alleged by some right-wing newspapers, had been lessened after they had met with officials of the People's Bureau and the Jamahiriya School. After the school opened, a reception was held to which local people and Kensington councillors were invited. Despite this contact, and despite the contacts between residents and the school's pupils in recent months, the campaign against the school appears to be continuing.

A conservative peer, Lord Kimberley, asked a question about the school in the House of Lords in March. He was told that it was being registered by the Department of Education and Science, and that it would be subject to regular inspection. Mr Ifkirin told *Jamahiriya Review* that all of those who were worried about the school being put to non-educational uses were welcome to pay it a visit and see for themselves.

But it seems that this is apparently not enough for some people. A journalist from the *Sunday Telegraph* recently paid a visit to the school and interviewed the headmaster, staff and pupils. He was also able to look over the building for himself. Nevertheless, the story about the school which appeared in the paper on 18th April still carried allegations that it would be used for 'terrorist activities'.

Lord Kimberley told *Jamahiriya Review* that he would also welcome an opportunity to see the school for himself. He was vague about his reasons for renewing the campaign over the school with his question. 'I have asked several questions about the school; I can't really say why I put down this one. But it does seem an awful lot of money to spend on a school,' he said.

Miss Lyndie Brimstone, a volunteer English teacher at the school, and the only English staff member, said that the reporter had not seemed interested in the sort of education the school would provide. Indeed, the *Sunday Telegraph* article got the school's syllabus wrong, claiming that the pupils would study only 'English, Arabic and the thoughts of Colonel Qadhafi' rather than the full Jamahiriya school syllabus. Questions which had been asked concerned alleged 'political pressure' on staff and pupils, staff said.

Miss Brimstone said that the pupils were 'the same as any school students; they are sometimes naughty, and sometimes very thoughtful.' Ms Brimstone had taught English as a foreign language in several schools and colleges in London, and said that she appreciated the opportunity to work with a monolingual group of children rather than the mixed groups normal in local authority schools.

'No problems'

Mr Fergus Hobbs, Chairman of the Glebe Place Residents' Association, said that his Association had not wanted the building to be used as any sort of school, because this inevitably caused more disturbance than if the site had been used for housing. Since it had opened, local people had experienced 'no more disturbance than if it had been any sort of school, although it is sometimes used on Saturdays.' But some local people might also have political objections to the Libyans, he thought. The Residents' Association, which was solely concerned with questions of amenity, had not been responsible for the renewal of interest in the school's use. 'The Libyans have certainly done it up very nicely, though,' he said.

Higher education: The key to Libya's future



The modern campus at Benghazi's Gar Younis University

THE OPENING on 29th April of a Faculty of Nuclear and Electronic Engineering at Tripoli's Al Fateh University underlines the Libyan Jamahiriya's determination to equip its citizens with even the most sophisticated technical skills. The new faculty has four departments, for computing, nuclear engineering, materials science and engineering technology, and has a range of facilities, including lecture halls, specialist laboratories and a library stocked with 9,000 books. In addition, a special section deals with audiovisual teaching aids.

In revolutionary Libya, education is seen as a right for all the people. But it is also the key to the country's ambitious economic and social development programme. And, in turn, the Libyan drive for across-the-board development is in part motivated by the acute awareness of the unbreakable links between economic and political independence. No country shackled to the economies of foreign states or multinational corporations can pursue truly independent foreign or domestic policies.

Part of the continuing dependence of the Third World on the industrialised countries centres is for manpower. Economic

IN LIBYA, education is seen not only as a right for all the people, but also as the foundation for the country's ambitious development programme. In this special report Dr Alan George reviews the strides taken in higher education, where there is a growing emphasis on technical training.

and social development in the twentieth century hinges on mastery of a wide range of technical and managerial skills. After years of neglect during colonial rule, developing nations lack their own technicians, and have no option but to recruit staff in the very countries whose formal colonial rule they have shaken off.

'Development' is often measured only in terms of national income. But such figures can be highly misleading. Many

Third World countries have recorded rises in income, but without any fundamental change in their ability to generate growth independently of economic and political currents in the industrialised states. Recession in the West, or even a decline of demand for a specific commodity, can wipe out rises in national income. The relationship between the developed and developing worlds is little better than that between an imperial power and its colonies. It is one-sided and exploitative, offering Third World peoples little hope for long term economic, let alone political, security and independence.

Formidable challenge

There is a growing school of thought amongst development economists that sees the acquisition of technical and managerial skills as the single most important factor in the attainment of 'real', self-sustaining development, and the Jamahiriya has become increasingly attuned to their views. In January last year, former Libyan Planning Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa, told the General People's Congress — the Libyan legislature — that shortages of skilled manpower had proved the most formidable challenge to the implementation of the country's 1976-80 development plan.

Higher education has consistently been accorded a high priority since the 1969 Revolution, and in the early years the emphasis was to increase facilities and student numbers across the board. Striking progress has been attained.

At the time of the Revolution, Libya had a single university, with faculties divided between Tripoli and Benghazi. In addition, there was an Islamic University, opened in 1957 at the north eastern town of Beida. But total students enrolled in the 1968/69 academic year stood at only 3,956.

The old University of Libya has witnessed enormous expansion. In the 1972/3 academic year it was divided into two separate institutions, at Benghazi and Tripoli, respectively named Gar Younis University and Al Fateh University. In 1976 a Faculty of Education of Al Fateh University was opened in the southern town of Sebha, in accordance with the aim of distributing educational establishments

Free studies abroad for specialists

IN KEEPING with the Jamahiriya's policy of self-reliance, Libyan students are granted scholarships to study overseas, but only when comparable instruction is not available at home. The rapid development of higher education over the past ten years, however, means that Libyans must now travel abroad for instruction only in the most specialised fields.

In February the British firm of Inger-

soll Engineers won a \$41 million contract to train workers for Libya's first steelworks, being built at the coastal town of Misrata, east of Tripoli. The company will run a five-year training programme, with 350 entrants per year. As part of their course, students will spend periods in Austria, West Germany and Japan undergoing practical training with companies supplying machinery for the steelworks.

In 1981 a contract was announced for the training of 480 Libyans in telecommunications in Greece. The students will attend schools run by the

state-owned Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation, which under an earlier contract had already undertaken to train 200 Libyans.

Even in a field as new to Libya as steelmaking, however, the Jamahiriya is intent on enabling its citizens to attain skills without having to go abroad. Last year it was announced that the Austrian steel firm Voest Alpine had won a \$7.8 million contract to supply a vocational training centre to be linked to the Misrata steel plant. The centre will have a workshop, fully equipped with machine tools, and classrooms for 240 trainees.

in all the Jamahiriya's cities and towns. The Beida college has been incorporated in Gar Younis University, with Faculties of Arabic Language and Islamic Studies, and of Education and Agriculture. By the 1978/79 academic year, Libya's university student population had risen to over 14,000.

Technical skills were not overlooked, and special Technical Institutes were inaugurated in 1976 at Brak, Houn and Bani Walid. After only two years they were catering for 7,500 students. In Tripoli, a Petroleum Institute was established, together with a Petroleum Faculty at the Al Fateh University, while a Petroleum Engineering Higher Institute was set up in the north eastern coastal town of Tobruk.

Nevertheless, many of the courses offered at Libya's expanded universities bore only limited relation to the country's development needs. Many students were studying subjects such as literature and foreign languages. In recent years there has been a strongly growing emphasis on more directly relevant subjects.

Technical skills

The 1981-85 development plan expressly calls for greater efforts towards the acquisition of technical skills by Libyan citizens, and the policy was reaffirmed at January's meeting of the Libyan General People's Congress (GPC). The GPC resolved to encourage earlier specialisation by students. Secondary schools will be phased out, and replaced by specialised training institutes, with courses linked to the universities. It was also agreed that post graduate education generally should be given much greater emphasis. Another resolution, reflecting Libya's strong desire for self-reliance, called for an end to scholarships for study overseas, except for instruction not available in the Jamahiriya.

The growing emphasis on the development of specialised technical education at post-graduate level is also reflected in the facilities recently opened or under way. The most striking sign of the new direction of Libyan higher education came last November when revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi formally opened the Jamahiriya's first technical university. Located at the coastal town of Marsa Brega, the university will specialise in subjects relating to oil and engineering, and will have an eventual population of 1,700. In addition to a range of well-equipped laboratories, there are seven lecture theatres in the integrated complex, which has about 1,000 rooms.

A joint venture of Switzerland's two leading construction companies, Preiskerle and Frutigen of Thun took three years to build the LD 30 million main university complex. Another LD 2 million will be spent on utilities such as power and air conditioning, and a further LD 1 million on furniture and laboratory equipment. A student village is to be added to the teaching complex.

Training the new generation of teachers

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya's teacher training programme is a crucial area of higher education in a country where 700,000 pupils — about one third of the entire population — are enrolled in education up to the age of 18. Teacher training, like other sectors of education, was sadly neglected in the pre-revolutionary era. In the 1968/69 academic year only 5,159 students were enrolled in teachers training institutes. Ten years later, the figure had increased six-fold, to 28,735. The 1981-85 Libyan development plan provides for further expansion. Four new teacher training institutes will be built, and students will increase to 30,500.

Until a few years ago, teacher training in Libya comprised a short, two year course which commenced at the end of the intermediate stage of school education. Students started their instruction as teachers at the age of only fifteen or sixteen, and were able to take up posts only in primary or elementary schools. There has since been a shift to longer, and much more thorough, training for teachers, with courses lasting four or five years, but with students still starting at the end of intermediate education. By 1978 about 23,000 of the total of 28,000 trainee teachers were already pursuing the new longer courses.



Well stocked libraries for Libya's students

The Marsa Brega University will become the focus of technical training in the Jamahiriya, and will incorporate a number of existing colleges and university faculties. The Mining and Petroleum Faculty of Al Fateh University, and the Brak Technology Institute are amongst those that will be transferred to Marsa Brega.

Other major new facilities geared to meeting the Jamahiriya's development needs are under way. Last October it was disclosed that the Swiss firm of Geilinger had won a \$50 million contract to build a Faculty of Agriculture for Gar Younis University, to be located at Beida some 200 kilometres north east of Benghazi. The two-storey building will cover an area of more than 28,000 square metres, and will cater for 1,500 students and 150 staff. Completion is due by the end of 1983.

The main campus at Gar Younis, meanwhile, is continuing its expansion, with a clear emphasis on facilities for technical studies. In 1981 South Korea's Daewoo Development Corporation won a \$82.4 million contract to build a factory of science. The firm also had a letter of intent for the construction of a \$40.2 million printing complex.

Maritime skills

The drive to enhance the practical skills of Libyan citizens is not confined to the universities. The 1981-85 development plan provides for the expansion of Libya's merchant fleet to 36 vessels, and by 1985 it is expected that 60 per cent of all the country's imports will be carried on Libyan vessels. To meet the demand for skilled crews for the new ships, the Jamahiriya will open its first merchant marine college. Last year the Yugoslav firm Energo-projekt won the construction contract for the college, which will cater for 400-600 undergraduate students and 100 post-graduates. Construction should take three years.

The coming years will see no slowing down in the development of higher education in the Jamahiriya. The \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan allocates a massive one billion Libyan dinars to education at all levels, and the number of students in university and higher education is set to increase at an average annual rate of 9.6 per cent, from 19,300 in the 1980/81 academic year to 30,000 in 1985/86. It is a very far cry from the days following Libya's nominal independence in 1951, when only fourteen Libyans held university degrees.



The Libyan Revolution transformed the international oil market

Lost in a minefield of mis-information

THE HISTORY of the political, economic and social development of the Libyan Jamahiriya since the September Revolution of 1969 is a subject that requires special care and attention from any author, to enable him to see through the mass of biased and inaccurate verbiage to which any student of Middle East politics must become accustomed. Few countries and systems of government can have been the subject of as much hostile mis-information as the Jamahiriya has been, and regrettably, it is only a very few observers who can be said to have made their way safely through the mis-information minefield to obtain a real grasp of the country. Unfortunately, John Wright is one who seems to have got blown up on the way.

Chapters covering the period prior to the Revolution can serve the reader as an outline guide, although several need reading with caution. One problem seems to have been that when Mr Wright has stumbled across a useful fact, he does not always give it the attention which it deserves. One example is the section dealing with the expansion of the colonial powers at the beginning of the twentieth century, with Italy thrusting south from the Mediterranean and France northwards through the Sahara into the Fezzan. Greater detail to explain the fact that large areas which were under the political and economic control of Libyan-based entities were then severed would have been valuable.

Moreover, on occasion the author displays the ability to run across interpretations of value, but then appears to lack the courage to spell them out properly. For example, in an analysis of the structure of the Senussi regime, he says, 'The Libyan Kingdom was from the outset

A NEW book, entitled 'Libya—A Modern History' has just been published in London. But Peter Hellyer questions whether the author has placed the achievements of Libya since 1969 in their proper perspective or studied them in sufficient detail.

little more than a benign despotism administered by an oligarchy of leading families and tribal and commercial interests.' Even the carefully chosen facts that he presents on political repression would tend to cast doubt on the use of the word 'benign', while proper reference to the corruption that characterised the regime would not have been out of place.

Mr Wright's main area of expertise is in oil, but here he clearly lets his predilection towards the international oil companies run away with him. He does, to give him his due, praise the role of the Jamahiriya in revolutionising relations between the 'Seven Sisters' and the oil-exporting countries thus: 'The swift revolution in company-government relations (1970-1974) was due primarily to Libyan initiative, hard-headed boldness and well-timed insistence on the recognition of economic "rights" that other producers had long claimed but had been unable or unwilling to achieve.'

More details of precisely how the Libyan oil industry came under national control, and how the plotting of the oil majors was defeated should however have been provided, especially by a journalist specialis-

ing in oil. Perhaps the reason for the omission is hinted at in Mr Wright's comment on Libya's first oil law, drawn up under the monarchy. 'The law,' he says, 'was much praised for its fairness and foresight.' He adds that it was drawn up by a drafting committee on which the oil companies themselves were represented. Little wonder then that in the post-revolutionary era, the law was shown to have represented virtually a licence to print money for the oil companies and for their local agents.

The saddest omission of the book is its failure to deal properly with developments since the revolution in the political economic and social fields. There is a grudging admission that progress has been achieved, while Mr Wright does satisfactorily dispose of the theory that the Revolution was a mere military *coup d'état*. It was, he states, 'the result of sustained ideological and practical preparations', which had begun long before those who carried it out had even joined the armed forces.

The book, then, fails to give any real understanding of the Jamahiriya today, its achievements, its objectives, and precisely how it works. It cannot be said to fit into the pattern of hostile reporting to which students of the Jamahiriya have become so accustomed, although Mr Wright's attempts to submerge his own feelings do not always succeed. At the same time, however, while the historical background may be useful, what is really needed today is a detailed study of the Jamahiriya — the period after 1969. Regrettably, it is precisely that which Mr Wright has failed to provide.

□ *Libya—A Modern History* by John Wright, published by Croom Helm, price £13.95.

OPEC may have beaten off oil surplus problems

WHEN OIL Ministers of OPEC countries met in Vienna at the end of March, the western media was replete with barely concealed glee about the chaos in the world oil markets, and the excess of OPEC production over world demand, leading to falling prices for oil products, and the weakening of both the political and economic power of the oil producing countries.

'Oil is not a magic commodity,' one self-styled oil 'expert', Christopher Murphy of the London stockbrokers James Capel, told *Newsweek* on 22nd March; 'the price will at least halve before this bear market [falling price period] is through.'

There was open anticipation that the oil exporters would fail to pull together. 'The best possible outcome of the Vienna meeting would be no agreement at all. Instead of the familiar spectacle of cartel members announcing yet another price increase, OPEC's quarrelsome ministers may simply head home in scowling silence sending the price of oil down even more,' said *Time* magazine on 22nd March.

But the western media were disappointed. At their Vienna meeting, OPEC Ministers not only agreed a further overall production cut; they also, for the first time in OPEC history, agreed production quotas for OPEC members. In the past, OPEC has set its prices, and because of the high demand for oil, those prices have been met.

Since the onset of the recession in the capitalist world's economy in 1980, falling demand for oil has meant that OPEC prices were eroded. The result was pressure from the Libyan Jamahiriya and other radical OPEC countries for cuts in production.

Before the March meeting, OPEC's 'bench mark' price of \$34 dollars a barrel was under pressure. On the Amsterdam 'spot' market, where oil is traded to the highest bidder, prices had fallen as low as \$25 a barrel. The February announcement by the British National Oil Corporation that it would sell its crude — which usually attracts a premium above the OPEC price — for three dollars a barrel below it was taken as further pressure on OPEC to cut prices.

In the first months of this year, total OPEC production was estimated at around 18 million barrels a day. But OPEC Chairman Mana Saeed Al Oteiba of the UAE announced on 21st April that it had fallen during the month to under 16 million barrels a day. 'A cut in OPEC's bench-mark price of \$34 a barrel is a dream of the past,' he told the UAE's news agency WAM. The Organisation was prepared 'to go below the current production of 15.85 million barrels a day' to defend its prices, he said. The OPEC chief was speaking after a meeting of the four-nation special committee on prices set up by the Vienna meeting to monitor the production cuts and quotas.

Nigeria's plight

The worst sufferer from the glut was

OPEC, THE Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, appears successfully to have beaten off challenges from western countries, principally the United States. The slide in the price of oil which occurred over the last six months was halted in April. Phil Kelly analyses the turn-round.



UAE Oil Minister Mana Saeed al Oteiba

undoubtedly Nigeria. As long ago as November, Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi drew attention to the plight of this country of 40 million people, whose light crude oil is normally sold at a premium over the OPEC price. With similar oil available from the North Sea at \$31 a barrel, and with an estimated 4 million barrels of oil a day being unloaded on to the world market by the oil companies, many companies were simply refusing to buy Nigerian oil at its official price.

As well as cutting production, OPEC countries threatened major oil companies which refused to deal with Nigeria that they might be blacklisted by other producers. The threat worked. Nigerian production, which fell to about 630,000 barrels a day in March, rose to about 900,000 b/d in April, though this is far below the quota set in Vienna, which allowed 1.3 billion b/d.

Key to OPEC's production levels is the amount of oil produced by Saudi Arabia, which accounts for about half of total OPEC output. In February, the political editor of the Libyan news agency JANA, reflecting widely-held feelings in the Jamahiriya and the Arab homeland as a whole, said that the survival of some oil producing

countries was at risk, and that Saudi Arabia was largely responsible. The Saudi rulers maintained that their level of production was not set deliberately in order to cause a glut, as Libya and other critics suggested. Their fear, they said privately, was that if they cut production, other OPEC producers would simply increase theirs to compensate.

The production quotas set for all OPEC countries at the end of March removed that excuse. It appears that pressure on the Saudis has made them realise that the oil price would continue to slide under the OPEC level unless they cut their production below the nine million barrels a day which they were producing at the beginning of the year.

The oil glut brought two major advantages for the United States. Oil prices which were static or falling helped to reduce the Americans' oil import bill and so to limit the USA's balance of payments deficit. Imports from the Middle East to the US fell from 14.2 per cent to 11.38 per cent of the US import bill between 1980 and 1981, the *Middle East Economic Digest* reported on 23rd April. In January, Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Yamani admitted to the Paris-based journal *Al Mostakbal* that an oil embargo against the US in order to bring pressure to bear over American Middle East policy would be impossible 'for one of two years' because of the glut.

So in a crucial period for the Arabs, as Israel went ahead with its plans to make permanent in some way its control over the occupied West Bank and Gaza, there was no way of bringing Arab pressure to bear on the US. The deaths of at least 40 Palestinians, in the occupied territories and in camps in Lebanon, can be directly attributed to the oil glut.

This is now over. Officials at the OPEC special committee meeting said that prices in the spot market were already climbing over the \$31 dollars a barrel level by the British. 'The Chairman of Exxon said in Detroit yesterday that he expected economic expansion to erase the world-wide glut of oil by the autumn and start pushing prices back up,' *The Guardian* reported on 28th April. This is good news for the oil companies. Higher prices make it possible for them to explore for oil in ever more remote and difficult locations, and thus to maintain their grip on the world's oil production.

Whether it is also good news for the oil producing countries depends largely on whether they can use the increasing power of oil to achieve a modification of the Reagan administration's policy of unconditional support for Israeli aggression against the Palestinians and the Arabs.

Steel contract for UK

EPSOM-BASED consultants W S Atkins has won a four-year contract to provide a resident team of engineers to assist in supervising the construction of the first phase of the Jamahiriya's first integrated iron and steelworks, which is currently being built at Misrata, on the coast 200 kilometres east of Tripoli. The contract value has not been disclosed.

The Misrata steelworks is the largest single project in Libya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan. The \$3.3 billion first phase, for completion by 1985, provides for an annual capacity of 1.2 million tonnes of steel. A second stage, for completion by 1995, will increase capacity to 5 million tonnes, and a third stage will give a 7 million tonnes capacity by 2005.

The first stage will have two steel production lines, each with a direct reduction plant, electric arc furnaces and continuous casting equipment. One line will consist of two rod and bar mills and a medium section mill. The second line, for flat products, will have hot and cold rolling mills with associated finishing plant.

W S Atkins has been involved in the Jamahiriya for some years, and is already working on another project related to the Misrata steelworks. In 1977 the Secretariat of Communications awarded the firm a contract to conduct surveys and prepare designs for two roads in western Libya. One of these will link Sadadah, to the south of Misrata, to the main coast road. It will be used to transport limestone and dolomite rock from new quarries near Sadadah for use in the steel making process. The second road is a 250 kilometre link between Sirte, the coast, and Waddan, in the desert interior. The new route will cut the road distance between Benghazi and the central Libyan town of Sebha by 175 kilometres. The British consultants are also responsible for supervising the construction of the two roads, which began in May last year.

Heliports for flying doctor service

THE ITALIAN firm Italconsult has begun designs for twenty heliports, and tender documents for their construction are expected to be issued by the end of the year. The heliports are for Libya's flying doctor service, and will be built near hospitals throughout the Jamahiriya.

A key aim of Libya's health

care planners is to provide all the country's citizens with ready access to medical services. To overcome the obstacle posed by the enormous distances in the Jamahiriya, a flying doctor service was inaugurated last year. It was announced in March 1981 that the Health Secretariat had bought three helicopters and two fixed-wing aircraft for the service, and that thirty pilots for the medical aircraft had completed their training.

Bus link with Tunisia

A BUS service between Tripoli and the Tunisian town of Gabes started on 19th April, two months after revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi visited Tunis for talks with President Habib Bourguiba and Premier Muhammad Mzali. The visit marked the end of a period of strained relations stemming from an episode in 1980 when it was alleged that the Jamahiriya had instigated an uprising in the south Tunisian mining town of Gafsa. Following Muammer Qadhafi's visit, Libya and Tunisia signed a wide-ranging agreement aimed at eliminating all economic barriers between the neighbouring countries.

Italian trade booms

FIGURES JUST published by the Istituto Nazionale di Statistica show that Italian exports to the Jamahiriya last year rose to \$4.9 billion, more than twice the 1980 total of \$2.2 billion. Imports from Libya increased by one third, to \$3.7 billion.

The statistics show that the Libyan Jamahiriya has confirmed its role as Italy's most important trading partner in the Arab homeland. Italian exports to Arab countries last year totalled \$12.9 billion, accounting for 18 per cent of Italian exports worldwide. The Arab homeland supplied Italy with goods worth \$18.8 billion, 22 per cent of Italy's imports from all sources. Amongst the Arab countries, the Jamahiriya was by far the most important destination for Italian goods. As a source of Italian imports from the Arab homeland, Libya came in second place, after Saudi Arabia.

US Department of Commerce figures, meanwhile, show that strained relations between Washington and Tripoli have not prevented an expansion of trade ties. US exports to the Jamahiriya last year jumped to \$813.4 million from \$508.8 million in

1980. Libya's exports to the USA in 1981 stood at \$5.3 billion, a sharp fall from the 1980 figure of \$8.6 billion, reflecting lower oil prices. The Jamahiriya's 1981 exports to America were nevertheless slightly higher than the 1979 level of \$5.2 billion.

The US last year exported goods worth \$16.7 billion to the Arab homeland, accounting for 7.2 per cent of all American exports. Imports from the Arab countries were \$28.1 billion — 10.7 per cent of global US exports. Saudi Arabia is by far the largest of America's trading partners in the Arab region.

Libyan hotel in Malta

CONSTRUCTION OF the 350-room Qasr Djerba Hotel in Malta has been completed, the Jamahiriya News Agency JANA disclosed on 11th April. The hotel, the largest in Malta, is owned by the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company (LAFIC), set up last year to handle all the Jamahiriya's non-banking overseas investments.

JANA quoted sources at LAFIC as saying that the new hotel was 'living proof of the Jamahiriya's positive investment role in friendly countries, and is the fruit of mutual co-operation between the Jamahiriya and Malta'.

New merchant ship delivered

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has taken delivery of its latest merchant vessel, the 9,000 dwt *Hashish*, the Libyan news agency JANA announced on 8th April. The new ship was built in East Germany, and brings to 26 the number of vessels in the Libyan merchant marine. The *Hashish* has two sister ships already in service with the National Shipping Company. The 9,400 tonne *Ibn Hawkal* was delivered on 12th January, and the *Sirte* on 25th October last. The completion of the contract for the three ships marks an important step in attaining the 1981-85 development plan's target of a 36-vessel merchant fleet by the middle of the decade.

The expansion of the fleet has been accompanied by a major port development programme, which aims at increasing the annual capacity of the country's ports for 7 million tonnes in 1980 to 16 million tonnes by 1981. The latest port scheme was completed on 17th April when a new oil jetty was inaugurated in the north east port of Tobruk. The 150 metre jetty, built for the Brega Oil Marketing Company, can accommodate fully-laden 10,000 tonnes oil tankers, and partly laden 15,000 tonnes tankers. The new oil terminal has



Tripoli port — gateway to Libyan development markets



Libyan housing: 5,000 new homes in Tripoli and 7,000 in Benghazi will be provided by recent contracts signed. See report: British Consultant in Tripoli housing scheme.

a full range of modern facilities, including an automatic fire-fighting system, and a radio communications system linking the operations room to tankers.

Libal: Joint company for aluminium scheme

THE JAMAHIRIYA'S Heavy Industry Secretariat and the Yugoslavian concern Energoinvest have formed a joint company, Libal, to operate Libya's first aluminium smelting complex, to be built at Zuwara, on the coast 120 kilometres west of Tripoli. The new company will be based in Tripoli, and 20 per cent of its \$80 million capital will be put up by Yugoslavia.

The Zuwara complex will include a 120,000 tonnes per annum smelter, and a 175,000 tonnes per annum plant to produce petroleum coke, which is used in the smelting process. Total construction costs will be about \$1.25 billion, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said on 2nd April.

An American joint venture of Kaiser Engineers and National Southwire Aluminium Company last year won an \$800 million

design, engineering procurement and construction supervision contract for the smelter. Also in 1981, the Italian firm Foster Wheeler Italiana won a \$45 million contract for similar work on the associated petroleum coke plant. The British consultants Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners is designing a new port to serve the Zuwara complex.

Scheduled to enter operation in 1986, the aluminium complex is one of the largest projects in the Jamahiriya's 1981-85 development plan, which allocates \$13.5 billion — 23 per cent of total expenditure — to industrial development.

New dam will boost agriculture

THE LOW rainfall that prevails over all of the Jamahiriya except the coastal zones in the north west and north east poses a major challenge to Libya's ambitious agricultural development programme, which aims at self-sufficiency in food by the turn of the century. Water conservation has become a preoccupation of agricultural planners, and one of the key measures under way is the construction of a series of

dams to tap surface run-off of rainwater that was formerly lost to agriculture.

The Indian firm Continental Construction is nearing completion of one of the largest of the new dams, a \$90 million rock-fill structure across the Wadi Ghan, near Gharian to the south of Tripoli. The 315 metre wide, 72 metre high dam will allow the development of irrigated agriculture in the surrounding Wadi al Hira area. Work on the dam started in 1978.

The Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan allocates \$10.1 billion to agriculture, 16.2 per cent of total plan expenditure. A major aim is to bring a further 66,330 hectares of land into irrigated cultivation.

The emphasis on the efficient use of water for agriculture has created important opportunities for suppliers of irrigation equipment. It was announced in March that the Turkish firm Yazar Pompa has earned \$2.6 million from exports of 16,000 motor pumps to the Jamahiriya.

The development of market gardening is another important aim of Libya's agricultural planners, and in April companies were invited to bid for a major contract to erect greenhouses throughout the country.

Libya also aims to boost agricultural output by greater use of modern pesticides. In March the Polish firm Dromex won a contract to build roads, and two airfields for crop-dusting planes. The Jamahiriya is the firm's major trading partner, and Dromex has already built more than 1,500 kilometres of roads and three airfields for crop-dusting aircraft.

Telephone exchanges on schedule

WEST GERMANY'S Siemens company is on schedule to deliver five mobile telephone exchanges, each with 1,000 lines, by the middle of the year. The equipment is part of a telecommunications equipment order worth \$40 million, won last autumn. The firm is also to supply and install four local telephone exchanges and associated dialling equipment, and to extend a number of existing exchanges.

Siemens is already playing a key role in the expansion of the Jamahiriya's telecommunications network, and since 1976 has been working on a major project to establish country-wide telephone services.

The Jamahiriya's 1981-85 development plan provides for the extension of the telephone

network so that there will be ten telephones per 100 citizens by the middle of the decade, compared with six per 100 in 1980.

British consultant for Tripoli housing scheme

SOUTH KOREA'S Daewoo Corporation has appointed the British consultants Robert Matthew Johnson-Marshall & Partners to assist in a major housing scheme in Tripoli. The London firm will undertake design work, and help in co-ordinating the provision of utilities. Client for the project is the Jamahiriya's Social Security Secretariat, with which the consulting company has worked for several years. Part of the firm's work will be to liaise between Daewoo and the Secretariat.

The Tripoli housing project is one of three contracts won simultaneously by Daewoo last autumn, and entailing the construction of 12,000 homes and 2,500 classrooms. The order was the largest ever won by a South Korean firm overseas, and brought the total value of Daewoo's work in Libya to \$3 billion. All three projects are due for completion by the end of 1985, the final year of the Jamahiriya's current five-year plan.

The Tripoli contract, for 5,000 homes, is worth \$347.9 million. In Benghazi, Daewoo will build 7,000 homes for the city's municipality, at a cost of \$513.3 million. The third contract is worth \$526.8 million, and is for the construction of 2,500 classrooms in eleven different municipalities. Client is the Libyan Education Secretariat.

Designs for the housing have been completed, and work has started on the construction of two precast concrete factories required for the schemes. One is under way in Tripoli, and the other in Benghazi. Daewoo has shipped precast concrete-making equipment from France, and is finalising a contract with the Italian firm Valdadige for design work and for the supply of machinery for the two plants.

Suppliers of site equipment have benefitted from the major construction projects under way throughout the Jamahiriya. In March it was announced that the Manchester-based firm Kwik-form has a \$838,380 order for scaffolding for a Libyan housing project, and in April it was disclosed that Norway's G Block Watne has a \$1.6 million contract for site accommodation in the coastal towns of Misrata and Tobruk.

THE GREEN BOOK



BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

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Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.